

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-1002**

**Towsontown Lodge**

**411 Jefferson Avenue**

**East Towson, Baltimore County**

**1881**

**Private**

The Towsontown Lodge at 411 Jefferson Avenue was constructed in 1881 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures.

Towsontown Lodge was founded in 1876 as Towson Lodge Number 1773 of Odd Fellows. In 1881 the lot at 411 Jefferson Avenue in East Towson was purchased for the construction of the Lodge. It is a two-story, front-gable, wood frame building covered with stucco and features overhanging eaves. The Towsontown Lodge fronts east on Jefferson Avenue and is sited close to the road. It has one bay on the first story and two on the second story. The one-leaf central entrance on the façade is boarded over. The second story has two horizontal-sliding two-light aluminum windows. There are two interior brick chimneys; one has a pointed arch cap, and the cap on the second is deteriorated. The solid foundation is covered with stucco, and the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. A two-story addition covered with stucco is located on the rear elevation. This addition has a rebuilt interior stretcher-bond brick chimney. A one-story shed-roof addition is located on the south side elevation, which is covered with vinyl siding and stucco.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 1002

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Towsontown Lodge

other

### 2. Location

street and number 411 Jefferson Avenue not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Stanley F. Stockwell

street and number 1744 Aberdeen Road telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21234

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 8970 folio 447

city, town Towson tax map 70A tax parcel 449 tax ID number 921450000

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 1002

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Towsontown Lodge was founded in 1876 as Towson Lodge Number 1773 of Odd Fellows. In 1881 the lot at 411 Jefferson Avenue in East Towson was purchased for the construction of the Lodge. It is a two-story, front-gable, wood frame building covered with stucco and features overhanging eaves. The Towsontown Lodge fronts east on Jefferson Avenue and is sited close to the road. It has one bay on the first story and two on the second story. The one-leaf central entrance on the façade is boarded over. The second story has two horizontal-sliding two-light aluminum windows. There are two interior brick chimneys; one has a pointed arch cap, and the cap on the second is deteriorated. The solid foundation is covered with stucco, and the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. A two-story addition covered with stucco is located on the rear elevation. This addition has a rebuilt interior stretcher-bond brick chimney. A one-story shed-roof addition is located on the south side elevation, which is covered with vinyl siding and stucco.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 1002

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1881-present

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1881

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Towsontown Lodge, founded in 1876 and constructed in 1881 is an important contribution to the community of East Towson. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 1002

*Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .14 Acre

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Towsontown Lodge is located at 411 Jefferson Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 449 since its construction in 1881.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	K. Baynard, R. Weidlich, and J. BuntingArchitectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	November 5, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



# East Towson: Planimetric Data



Prepared by:  
Baltimore County Office of Planning  
401 Bosley Avenue  
Towson, Maryland 21204  
June, 2001



Scale  
1 inch = 200 feet  
1:2400  
100 0 100 200 Feet

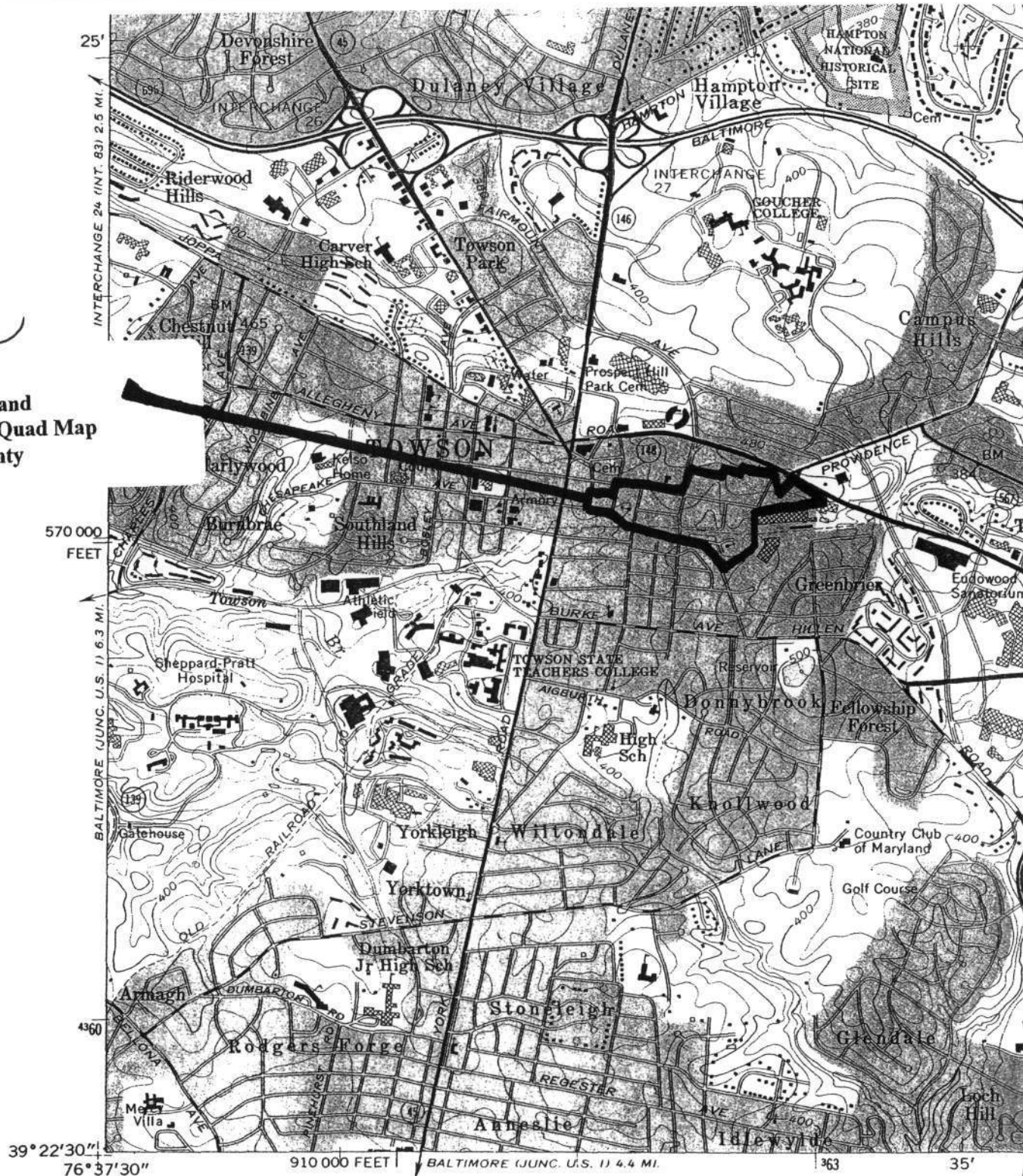
## Legend

- |                           |                     |                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Paved Roads               | Study Area Boundary | Hydrographic Features |
| Unpaved Roads             | Buildings           | Vegetation            |
| Paved Parking / Driveways |                     |                       |

Data Sources:  
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)  
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)  
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)  
Coordinate System:  
Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum  
Elevations in Feet: NAVD88 Vertical Datum  
Date of Data Capture: March 1996  
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'

BA-1002

East Towson  
Towson, Maryland  
Towson USGS Quad Map  
Baltimore County



(BALTIMORE WEST)  
5662 SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland  
Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

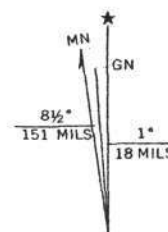
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944  
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue

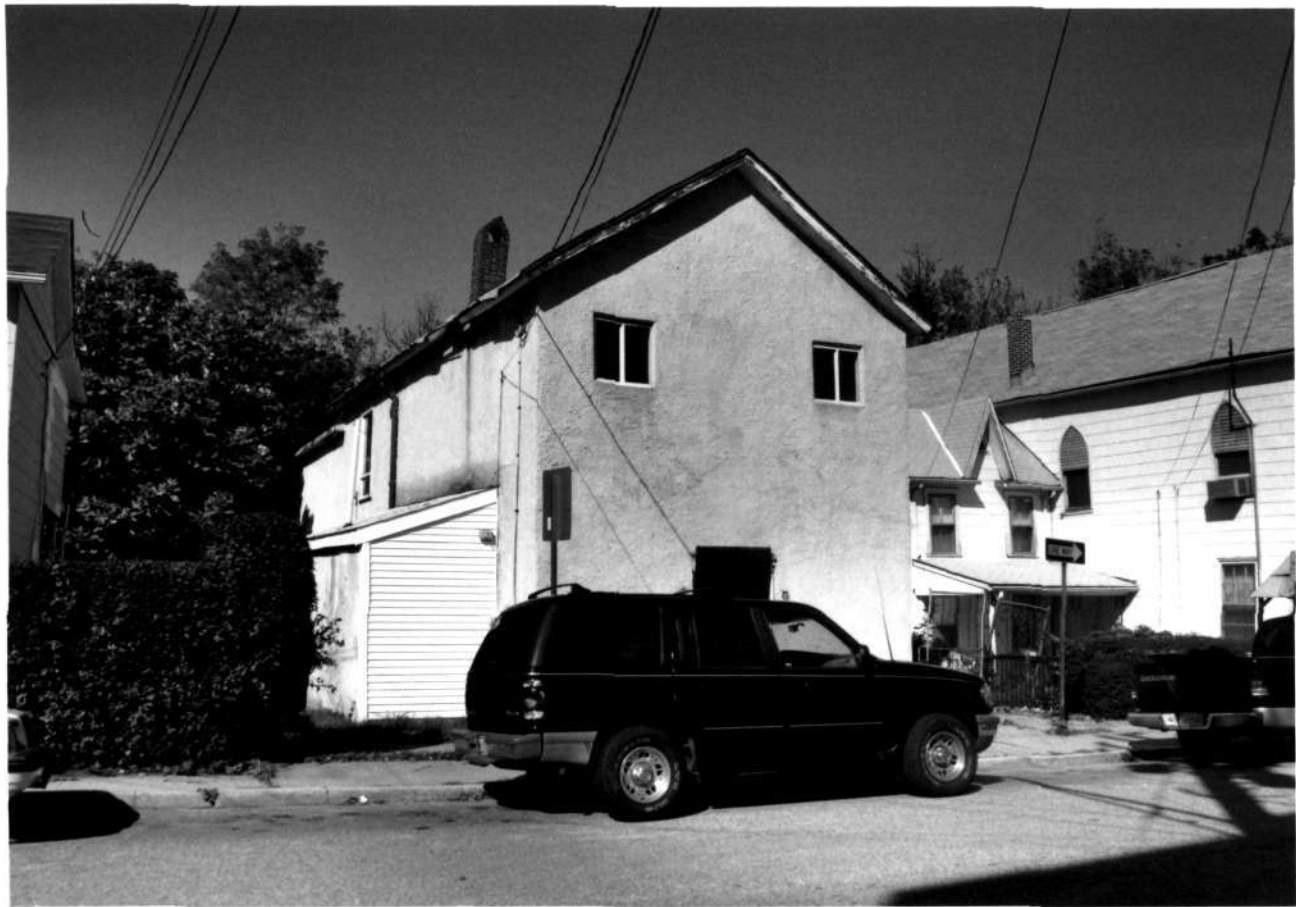
Red tint indicates areas in which only  
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from  
aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not  
field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET





BA- 1002  
TOWSON TOWN LODGE, 411 JEFFERSON AVE.  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
MD-SHPO  
EAST ELEVATION VIEW LOOKING WEST

1 of 2

TRACENES, 10/2001



BA-01002  
TOWSON TOWN LODGE, 411 JEFFERSON AVE.

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION VIEW LOOKING WEST

2 of 2

TRACERIES, 10/2001

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAG-1 #0310024610

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

United Sons of Towson Odd Fellows Lodge

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

411 Jefferson Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Second

COUNTY

Baltimore County**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

George Purvinance

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

25 E. Susquehanna Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.County Courts Bldg.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

C

BA-1002 - 411 Jefferson - Towson town Lodge

1881

Founded in 1876, this two-story frame meeting hall has  
long served local community social functions.

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☒ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☐ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

**Jefferson (Towsontown)**

The first section of this two-story frame meeting hall may have been built as early as 1876. It rests on a stone foundation and imitation-brick asphalt shingles now cover its original German siding.

The first floor plan includes a one-story addition on the east facade containing an entrance flanked by restrooms; one large meeting room, built in two stages, and a rear shed addition, part of which is two stories tall to accommodate a stair, and part of which houses a kitchen. The kitchen entrance is sheltered by a hood featuring sawtooth-edge brackets. All of the windows contain 6/6 sash and are protected by paneled shutters on the first floor and louvered shutters on the second floor.

The first section, to the east is three bays wide by three bays long. The second section is two bays square. The second floor plan consists of one room in the original building and one room to the north with a corridor to the south in the west addition. Each section has a stove flue along the north wall. Each section has a gable roof running east-west.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1002

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building represents a successful attempt to meet the social needs of a growing and upwardly mobile society of blacks and freed slaves.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marcus Pollock; M. Stinson , architect

ORGANIZATION

Committee to Save East Towson

DATE

6/30/77

STREET &amp; NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Avenue

TELEPHONE

8238870

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



BA-1002  
Odd Fellows Lodge  
411 Jefferson Ave.  
Towson, Md.  
east

Merry Stinson  
1977